

INCITE INFORMATION

News Analysis and Commentary

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Searching For Clues: The Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi

by Mark Hand

India's special investigation team, set up to solve the mystery behind the assassination of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in late May, believes that it knows who orchestrated the killing. As was speculated immediately after the gruesome assassination, investigators now believe that the assassination was the work of the Sri Lankan Tamil group known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Indian authorities believe that the plot to kill Rajiv Gandhi was first hatched in October 1990 near the northern Sri Lankan city of Jaffna. There is speculation that the leadership of LTTE believed that Rajiv Gandhi was on the verge of returning to power.

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Winnie Mandela and the Left

by Joe Peacott

Several months ago a trial took place in South Africa that might have been expected to be of great interest to the progressive lesbian and gay movement. Winnie Mandela was charged with and convicted of various charges connected with the kidnapping and beating of several young men, one of whom was later killed by her associates. What makes this trial relevant to the gay and lesbian movement is that at least part of the reason for this attack was that these men were believed to be engaging in sex with other men, an activity that Mandela apparently finds worthy of punishment by beatings, and even death.

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Vive La Difference

Suffern, New York

I would briefly like to register a complaint about your selection of material, specifically the piece "Battles For Peace In The Middle East" by Rabbi Jacob Feuerwerker in the July-August 1991 issue. The editor calls his article "provocative", a rather neutral term, and perhaps the article is provocative in the sense that the writings of Tom Metzger are provocative, albeit in differing contexts.

The article does not raise any new or interesting points. All of Feuerwerker's claims are commonly used by pro-Zionists and in fact are part of their vernacular. The facts, however, give a different picture, and perhaps you should avail yourselves of them. It's pointless to write an extended response to this ideological banter, but a few minor corrections might be constructive.

The expulsion of Jews from Arab countries took place mostly in 1947-49, as a response to the Israeli conquests of Arab lands. Mass expropriation of Arab territory (that is, of land held by Arab citizens of Israel) took place at the same time. Also, the role of Zionist terrorism during this period in causing mass emigration from Arab states must be taken into account. Moreover, the sheer numbers involved on the Arab side make this hardly "a fair trade (if you don't mind me using an

argument on the moral level of Feuerwerker's). The comments about instructions from the Koran and the great Moslem menace preparing to destroy the glorious West hardly merit comment. Once again, this stuff is indistinguishable from W.A.R. or Aryan Nations' material, both in matters of fact and ethics.

I hope that your publication will not decay into a kind of mindless "vive la difference" mindset, so characteristic of the liberal political scene, where comfortable Yuppies can congratulate themselves on being non-ideological and open-minded, and having taken "the best from both sides" (comforting thoughts for people who are very comfortable). Frankly, I can't understand why you would print something like Feuerwerker's paranoia, but that, of course, is your business.

Teodoro Sorgo

Rabbi Jacob Feuerwerker responds:

I plead guilty to not raising new points, though the points I've raised have not been used since the late 1960s when Israel was still considered an "underdog". And the points I did raise are well established historical facts. Please read, for instance, the May 1991 issue of *The Smithsonian*.

Most of the lands that the Arab population of "Palestine" abandoned in Israel's war of independence were those that were

already purchased by Jews. There was never a specific Israeli policy of driving the Arabs out. It must also be kept in mind that on May 15 1948 - the day after Israel declared its independence - Israel was attacked by seven Arab nations. It was as a result of these attacks that Israel became larger than the United Nation's "partition". It should also be kept in mind that the independent Arab states didn't want an Israel of any size in their midst and neither did they want a second independent Arab Palestine.

The fact still remains that the Arabs have over 75% of the original "Palestine". If they had wanted to establish a second Arab-Palestinian state, why didn't they do so in the 19 years they controlled the "West Bank" and Gaza Strip?

The fact remains that Israel has treated the Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza far better than they were treated by the Jordanians and Egyptians when they controlled these areas. Prior to 1967, there were no colleges or universities in these areas. Today there are six in the West Bank and two in Gaza. Infant mortality is down over 70% and most Arabs there enjoy a higher standard of living than most Arabs in Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

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All letters, cruel and complimentary, are welcome. If you have any comments, be sure to drop us a line.

Editor's Notes

Incite Information's move from the Washington D.C. area to Chapel Hill went rather smoothly. Chapel Hill (with a population of approximately 35,000 during the regular University of North Carolina school year) represents one of the points in what is called "the Triangle". Raleigh, capital city of North Carolina, and Durham, home of Duke University and the minor league baseball team the Bulls, complete the triangle.

This summer, trigger-happy Chapel Hill is reeling from a relatively large wave of violence. In the past month and a half, there have been a couple of drive-by shootings on Franklin Street, the main strip through the center of Chapel Hill. No one was killed or seriously injured but a local nightclub called the Cat's Cradle (whose patrons were involved in one of the shootings) has been fingered by the Chapel Hill city council as the scapegoat. Members of the city council who evidently think that the Cat's Cradle attracts the wrong type of clientele have cited a regulation which would reduce its occupancy limit and inevitably put the nightclub out of business. Instead of holding the young people who fired the

gun shots solely responsible for their own violent actions, the local government is trying to spread the blame where it doesn't belong. There will be a ruling on the matter in September.



As for the Chapel Hill area's reputation as a progressive place to live, this is a distorted image. Chapel Hill may not be a bastion of Old South fundamentalism but the modern, untouchable, establishment-types who sit on the corporate boards and fill the government bureaucracy have plenty to learn about freedom and liberty. Take, for instance, the local PBS-TV affiliate WUNC's decision not to run the documentary "Tongues Untied", the film by Marlon Riggs about the pain and rage felt by black, gay men. The self-righteous decision by the public television station executives to not air the program and to presume that the viewers are not responsible enough to decide whether to watch the program is similar to the Chapel Hill city council's decision to deflect the responsibility away from the people who committed the recent acts of violence in downtown Chapel Hill.

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All comments and letters, cruel and complimentary, are welcome. *Incite Information* encourages the submission of news items and tips which may aid in uncovering stories ignored or inadequately covered by the mainstream press. Permission to reprint articles can be readily obtained by letter. Subscriptions: One year (six issues)-\$10. Checks should be made payable to *Incite Information*.

Israel and Lebanon

Now that Lebanon has been swallowed up by the Syrian army and its confederates in blitzkrieg fashion (with the full-backing of the United States and almost the entire nation-state community), there are rumours that Israel may be willing in the near future to negotiate an end to its occupation and control over a portion of southern Lebanon. In July, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) surrendered its heavy weaponry to the Syrian controlled Lebanese Army. The Lebanese Army will keep these weapons in storage until the PLO can find a new weapons' depot to replace their overtaken bases in the Bekaa Valley around Sidon. Working closely with the United States, Syrian officials and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi are now trying to arrange with the Israelis on a timetable to disarm the Israeli proxy army in southern Lebanon known as the South Lebanon Army (SLA). It is unlikely that the Lebanese Army will provoke a confrontation with the SLA.

As for the Israeli occupation of the so-called security zone in southern Lebanon, the *Jerusalem Post* quoted Israeli officials as saying: "The South [of Lebanon] has to be clean from attacks...There can be no cells penetrating Israel, no booby-trap bombs, or anything like that. The PLO has shown that it can attack Israel without heavy weaponry."

Syria is reportedly ready to force the PLO and Hizbullah to halt all hostile incursions into northern Israel so that it can find out if Israel is truly intent on ending its occupation of southern Lebanon.

The Supermarket Scrooge

North Carolina-based supermarket chain Food Lion has had its share of bad publicity through the years. Its a company that has used its non-union 50,000 employee pool to become the "fastest growing supermarket chain in the nation", according to the *Independent Weekly* tabloid of Durham, North Carolina. Annual sales grew by an average of 25 percent a year during the 1980s to total \$5.6 billion last year. During that span, the number of stores has increased from 141 to 778. Not surprisingly, most of these stores have popped up in states below the Mason-Dixon line where local politicians and police forces never met a union-buster they didn't like. Whenever a union tries to organize Food Lion employees, the corporate office develops a counter-offensive strategy. One of the corporate schemes is a so-called profit sharing plan where employees can begin earning a share of company profits after they have been with the company for at least five years. Former Food Lion employees claim that they were fired by the company so that they would not be eligible for their share of the profits. The

Independent Weekly reports that "although Food Lion workers are not represented by any union, the company responds to the profit-sharing accusations by blaming the Commercial Workers International for stirring up trouble."

The Right to Bare Chests

Losing the right to choose abortion may be on the minds of many women but there are several other examples of blatant sexual discrimination that exist in the United States. Take for instance the fact that men are allowed to parade in public bare-chested while women are forced to cover their breasts or else break one of the many Puritanical laws that fill the law books. Writing in the *Anderson Valley Advertiser* (based in Boonville, California), Pat Veasart points out that "it seems that women who bare their breasts in public can be prosecuted, under what is called (appropriately enough) the Penal Code, for indecent exposure." Veasart goes on to argue that "the difference between the male and female breasts is more a matter of perception than physical reality...I've known women whose breasts are quite small, and men whose breasts were larger than many women's". Veasart says that it is time that Americans "weaned" themselves from the notion that the female breast is any more a sex object than the male breast.

Galloping Towards Fascism

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) wants to make it harder for foreign musicians to enter the United States and the AFL-CIO's Department for Professional Employees couldn't be happier. The INS's new regulations for non-immigrant foreign entertainer visas are scheduled to go into effect on October 1. The most glaring provision of these new regulations is that the total number of visas allotted each year for entertainers, including sports teams, would be 25,000. The regulations will make it very difficult for lesser known and non-mainstream performers to gain entry.

Illogically and hardheadedly, the AFL-CIO's Department for Professional Employees believes that touring foreign musicians will take work away from American performers. Never did the union hacks stop to think that a company will hire just about anyone to turn a screw on an assembly line while a night club would prefer to be more selective. For many types of music, American impersonators simply will not do. The union backing of this totalitarian measure is not surprising given the mindset of most government-sanctioned union officials. A music agent told the *Independent Weekly* of Durham, North Carolina that these new regulations are "very confusing. The whole country keeps moving to the right; it's galloping toward fascism."

Hemp, Hemp, Hooray!

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) wants you to know that marijuana or hemp can not only be used for clothing, paper, plastic, fuel, medicine, construction material, rope, varnish but that it is also a very safe drug to consume. NORML publications regularly cite statistics and one of their favorites is the comparisons of annual deaths by substance. According to a U.S. Department of Mortality Statistics report, tobacco kills 395,000 people each year, alcohol kills 125,000, over the counter and prescription drugs kill 27,000, caffeine kills 10,000, aspirin kills 1,000 while the total deaths from all illegal drugs is 5,200. The number of deaths each year from hemp or marijuana is zero.

The Withering Soviet State

Hindsight shows that the Soviet Union's coup plotters were incapable of successfully conducting a Tiananmen-style crackdown that would have helped to secure their capture of power. According to *The New Republic*, "the coup was a reminder that the institutions of Soviet authoritarianism were never going to relinquish power of their own accord, and that the forces for democratic change, however nebulous and young, were never going to tolerate the survival of those institutions." To say that this coup represented the last gasp of the neo-Stalinists is perhaps a bit premature. However, it is clear that the neo-Stalinists will never be

able to reimpose the same manner of control over the entire multi-national Soviet state. The trend towards the disintegration of the Soviet Union seems more apparent as each day passes. Writing in the August 1990 issue of this magazine, Frank Harrison said: "there is always the possibility of total state collapse because of the lack of will and lack of capacity of the regime to hold things together. We have seen the internal lack of cohesion and the lack of any general identity with the CPSU. Only the Russian half of the population seems to care anything about the USSR."

- Jerusalem Post (international edition), \$69.95. P.O. Box 282, Brewster, NY 10509.
- Independent Weekly, \$29-One year. P.O. Box 2690, Durham, NC 27715.
- Anderson Valley Advertiser, \$27-One year. Box 459, Boonville, CA 95415.
- National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). P.O. Box 53356, Washington, DC 20077-3788.
- The New Republic, \$69.97-One year. P.O. Box 56515, Boulder, CO 80322.

Incite Information welcomes all unsolicited submissions. Articles should be no more than 2500 words and reviews no more than 1500 words. Information to be published in the "News Digest" and "People Buried in the News" departments is also welcome.

Sri Lanka's Endless War

By Mark Hand

Following the British withdrawal from their nation in 1948, the Sinhalese-Buddhist majority of Sri Lanka (then called Ceylon) consolidated power over the entire island nation. For the minority Tamil population, this was the beginning of a long battle against a Sinhalese-controlled government that would deny them their basic rights. The conflict between the two ethnic groups entered its current stage of armed confrontation in the late 1970s when the union of Tamil nationalist groups declared that secession and the formation of an independent Tamil state would be their ultimate goal. In the 1977 general Sri Lankan election, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) won all 10 seats in the northern region of Sri Lanka which surrounds the city of Jaffna. The TULF had been supported by a growing group of young people who called themselves the Tamil Tigers. In 1978, these militants declared themselves officially as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Soon after the forming of the LTTE, the Sri Lankan government issued an order outlawing the group which was followed in 1979 by the enactment of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. This act led to the declaration of emergency rule in the Tamil-inhabited areas of northern Sri Lanka, thus giving the national army its cue to move in and begin its occupation which continues as viciously as ever today.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Population: 16.8 million.

Ethnic Groups: Sinhalese 74%; Tamils 18%; Muslims 7%; Other 1%.

Religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Membership: 10,000.

Military Commander: Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Home Base: Jaffna and the Jaffna peninsula.

Goals: Achieve the national liberation of Tamil Eelam (region of northern Sri Lanka).

In the 1980s, the Tamils witnessed the destruction of their homes and cities by Sri Lankan army personnel and armed civilians. Following the 1983 killing of two police officers and two soldiers by Tamil Tiger youths, anti-Tamil riots spread all over Sri Lanka, resulting in the deaths of over 500 Tamils. Many Tamils who had lived in the south fled to the north and east where the Sinhalese population was less concentrated.

Also in the mid-1980s, the LTTE consolidated its power by eliminating its rivals. The fighting was especially intense between LTTE and the second most powerful Tamil group, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO). The rivalry between these two groups ultimately led to LTTE commander Velupillai Prabhakaran ordering the killing of TELO leader Sri Sabaratnam. Prabhakaran, who is now 37 years old, has become known as one of the most charismatic guerrilla leaders in the world today. He can boast of an army of over 10,000 armed members who are believed to be extremely loyal.

In 1991, the LTTE is waging an offensive that may be one of its most ambitious to date. In early July, the Sri Lankan army and the LTTE waged a battle in the streets of Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka, that left 40 people dead. The Sri Lankan army which has maintained a heavy military presence in the north, may be forced in the near future to call back some troops from its 60,000 member army, to help with security in the south around Colombo.

For the Tamil civilians in the northern region called Jaffna peninsula, however, the civil war has turned living conditions from bad to worse. In mid-June, at least 185 Tamil civilians were massacred by Sri Lankan soldiers. The Sri Lankan government continues to keep the peninsula under continuous curfew, and the army is restricting transportation into the region. Along with the severe food shortages, the city of Jaffna itself, has been without electricity for over a year. Unlucky for the Tamils, there appears to be no sign of a settlement. The Sri Lankan army will never run dry of armaments and the LTTE fighters appear to have the stamina to make this a war with no end in sight. °

The Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi continued from page 1

They feared that with Gandhi as Prime Minister again, there would be a return of the Indian military forces to Sri Lanka to root out the Tamil Tiger insurgents. Also, LTTE officials feared Gandhi would have initiated a crackdown on their elaborate network of operations in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu where Gandhi was assassinated.

To successfully eliminate Gandhi, Indian investigators have surmised that the LTTE felt that the assassination needed to occur while he was still an opposition figure and more vulnerable to attack. According to the Indian investigators, the leader of the LTTE, Velupillai Prabhakaran, ordered in December 1990 four of his trusted lieutenants to plan the assassination with each of them assigned a

different task.

"LTTE officials feared that Gandhi ... would have initiated a crackdown on their elaborate network of operation in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu..."

One of those lieutenants,

Shivarasan, was assigned to plan the actual assassination.

Currently,

Indian police forces are

attempting to track down Shivarasan (alias "One-eyed Jack") in what has been labeled the "biggest manhunt launched in the country". It is believed that Shivarasan is still in the country and that if caught, his knowledge of the assassination will help to complete the puzzle of the mystery behind the assassination.

It was in early March that Shivarasan arrived in Madras, India to begin his assigned tasks. He examined the already prepared design for a human bomb and pronounced it suitable. The bomb itself was made up of a series of six grenades that were connected to a belt that tied around the waist. The grenades were connected to silver wires which were controlled by two toggle switches, one for arming and the other for triggering the bomb.

Shivarasan now needed to find the person who would wear the explosives and serve as the so-called

"human bomb". Shivarasan returned to Jaffna and selected two young women, Dhanu and Shubha, who were members of LTTE's women's squad. While in Jaffna, Shivarasan was ordered by his boss, Prabhakaran, to find someone to photograph the entire assassination mission so that Prabhakaran could view it.

On May 12, the alleged assassins staged the second of two dry-runs that had been ordered by Prabhakaran. It took place at a meeting featuring former Prime Minister V.P. Singh in a town near Madras. One of the chosen human bombs, Dhanu, was able to touch the feet of V.P. Singh in much the same manner as she would do with Rajiv Gandhi. One week later, it was announced in the newspapers that Rajiv Gandhi was to be present at several public meetings in the Madras area with his final appearance being in the town of Sriperumbudur on the night of May 21. Shivarasan chose this day as the perfect opportunity to perform the actual assassination of Gandhi.

On the afternoon of May 21, the conspirators boarded a bus in Madras city headed for Sriperumbudur. They arrived in Sriperumbudur at 8:00 p.m. Two hours later, Gandhi arrived and was surrounded by people trying to place garlands around his neck. The human bomb, Dhanu, was in the middle of the crowd. When she made her way to Gandhi, she bent down as if she wanted to touch his feet. Gandhi bent down to pick her up at which time Dhanu's right finger triggered the bomb. Both Rajiv and Dhanu were killed instantly along with several other people. °

Kidnapping in Kashmir

In July, a group of Kashmiri Muslim militants who are in favor of seceding from the Indian state were involved in a shoot-out with a group of Israeli tourists. During the hostilities, one of the Israelis, Yair Yitzaki, was captured. Surprisingly, Yitzaki's captors released him a week later after pressure was applied by the Pakistan government. After the farewell hugs with his captors, Yitzaki told reporters that the Muslim militants had been very kind to him.

Winnie Mandela and the Left

Continued from page 1

Over two years ago, when this incident occurred, Mandela was severely criticized by anti-apartheid activists in South Africa. In the United States, progressive lesbian and gay activists and publications, including radicals like Queer Nation and *Gay Community News*, have remained silent on this issue. A number of lesbians even participated in the organization of a women's event in Boston in her honor last June. Apparently many radical lesbians and gay men feel that queer-bashing is okay, as long as it is perpetrated by other progressives like Mandela.

It is hard to know all the facts about what happened in this incident, but nothing has been reported that would cast doubt on the assumption that anti-homosexual bias played an important role in the beatings and murder. Mandela herself admits that the presumed homosexual contact between her victims and a minister at a hostel in which they lived was the motivation for their abduction and beating. She claims, however, that she was only trying to "protect" them from "sexual abuse", despite the fact the "victims" have never claimed that any abuse occurred. Like many parents who try to beat homosexual feelings out of their children, Mandela feels it is legitimate to torture those who prefer homosexual sex. If she were truly interested in protecting these men against alleged sexual abuse, why not deal with the supposed "abuser", instead of further abusing the "victims". The only abuse suffered by these young men was that inflicted by Mandela and her friends.

Such actions on the part of Mandela against her opponents should come as no surprise given her commitment to violence and bloodshed as the preferred method of dealing with problems. Mandela has been tied to three other kidnappings and assaults,

Joe Peacott's last article for *Incite Information*, "The AIDS Activist Movement," appeared in the September 1990 issue. He can be reached at BAD Brigade, PO Box 1323, Cambridge, MA 02238.

The African Reactionary

Now that South African president F.W. De Klerk has ordered the abolition of the racially-based pass books, the newsletter *Africa Confidential* reports that an extreme rightist party has started to issue its own identity cards. The Boerestaat Party has decided to issue an identification card to anyone who appreciates the Boer language, culture and history.

Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder was quoted in *Africa Confidential*: "We are not fighting to be preserved as members of a certain color or group but as a nation. We are fighting to restore the old Boer Republics. The Israelites came back after 2,000 years and the world supported them. We had our republics, which were defeated by the British. We are nationalists, like the people in Lithuania and the Baltic republics. We want the republics back."

as well as a disappearance, that took place within a few months of the events she was being tried for. She has also been quoted as saying, "with our matches and our necklaces, we will liberate South Africa", referring to the practice of placing gasoline-soaked tires around the necks of those anti-apartheid activists considered "traitors", and lighting them on fire. Interestingly, just like Mandela's bullying of young gay men, necklacing is used only against black people.

Unlike most of their counterparts in the United States, the progressive movement in South Africa refused to keep silent in the face of Mandela's brutality. In fact, the first reports of the assaults and killing were published by an anti-apartheid newspaper, not the press controlled by or supportive of the government. Anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa, such as the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the United Democratic Front (UDF), were quick to condemn such violence on the part of Mandela. The UDF/COSATU statement read, in part, "We are outraged at Mrs. Mandela's obvious complicity in the recent abductions and assault against Stompie...We are outraged by the

reign of terror that the team [Mandela's body guards, also known as the Mandela United Soccer Club or the Mandela Football Club] has been associated with. Not only is Mrs. Mandela associated with the team, in fact, the team is her own creation. We are of the view that Mrs. Mandela has abused the trust and confidence which she has enjoyed over the years...The Mass Democratic Movement hereby distances itself from Mrs. Mandela and her actions."

This rebuke from her former allies in the anti-apartheid movement came only five months after another challenge to her image as a well-liked opposition leader. In September 1988, Mandela's home in Soweto was burned down by local "comrades", apparently in retaliation for a sexual assault against a student leader by members of the "football club". (Apparently, real sexual abuse is acceptable to Mandela and her friends, as long as it is heterosexual.) The attack on Mandela's home appears to have been prompted as well by ill-feeling generated by Mandela's rather comfortable lifestyle, which includes ownership of a Mercedes, in the midst of the widespread poverty of Soweto. According to a source in the anti-apartheid movement, the public condemnation of Mandela by COSATU and UDF was prompted by pressure on the part of Soweto residents fed up with the activities of Mandela and her associates. Prior to the killing of Stompie Seipei, opposition among other anti-apartheid activists to Mandela's thugs had led both Oliver Tambo and her husband Nelson Mandela to call on her to disband the club.

The left in the United States, heterosexual or homosexual, has never been very principled in its defense of the tyranny of progressive governments and movements. For instance, some gay and lesbian activists still defend the Cuban politicians who imprisoned queers in the past and who quarantine HIV-positive people today, practices these activists would find intolerable if engaged in by the United States government or its allies. Apparently, for many leftists, political leaders like Mandela and Castro who mouth the slogans of liberation do not need to live up to the same standards of behavior as mere mortals. In

a column entitled "Leftist cheerleaders are often wrong, but never in doubt", Thomas Sowell discussed the mindset of Mandela's supporters: "Long before the present ugly episode, Winnie Mandela was justifying the hideous practice of burning political enemies alive. How could anyone have romanticized such a person? Like too many other issues, South Africa is not approached as a serious question about the fate of millions of flesh-and-blood human beings, but as a symbolic issue providing yet another backdrop for our own moral preening. Those who are preoccupied with showing that they are on the side of the angels are quick to find angels to side with. Winnie Mandela was just one of those angels."

Just as many American leftists once ignored credible evidence that progressive leaders like Lenin and Castro were brutalizing and killing dissidents, most leftists today, including many lesbian and gay activists, continue to fawn over Mandela, despite the fact that even many of her former allies have seen her for the bully she is and have spoken out against her. People who are serious about liberation, sexual and otherwise, need to have a consistent commitment to personal freedom and be willing to speak out whenever people are unjustly attacked, whoever the attacker may be. Hypocritically covering-up and apologizing for the excesses of progressives puts into serious doubt the left's stated commitment to a free society. °

Big Forehead Quotes:

"If the United States truly has no intention to threaten our country and other Asian countries with nuclear weapons, it must give up its nuclear menace against us, withdraw all its nuclear weapons from south Korea and immediately respond to our proposal for the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone." - *Kye Ung Tae, prominent North Korean politician.*

"North Korea is fast replacing Iraq as the world's number one nuclear renegade." - *New York Times Editorial.*

Belated Calls For Impeachment

While the Old Gipper was sleepwalking in the White House, the press corps saluted his imperial presidency in the same manner as they are now deferring to George Bush. With Ronald Reagan back in California, however, editors and columnists have been sparked with a sudden sense of courage to stand up to the antics of the former President and his cabinet. Edwin M. Yoder Jr., for instance, has implied in a recent column that the U.S. Congress should have commenced proceedings of impeachment against Ronald Reagan while he was still in office. Yoder says: "To get around this restriction, the CIA and White House operatives arranged to divert profits from

ill-advised arms sales to Iran to purposes which Congress had refused to pay for...It was an open-and-shut violation of the Constitution to

"Ronald Reagan was impeachable for the offense, whether he ordered it, passively allowed it, or was duped ... by Oliver North and others."

defy the provisions of Article 4 and evade the lawful appropriations process. Ronald Reagan was impeachable for the offense, whether he ordered it, passively allowed it, or was duped (as he claims) by Oliver North and others."

Yoder and his *Washington Post* sponsors have little to fear these days by claiming that Reagan's involvement with the Iran-Contra affair was impeachable conduct unless of course they also turn their sights to the impeachable conduct of our reigning President George Bush. If Yoder had cried impeachment of Bush for his involvement in the alleged "October Surprise" deal or for his violation of the War Powers Act, it would have triggered a bit of commotion in the editorial and executive offices of the *Washington Post* and the column would have been severely edited or even dropped from publication.

Now that a cure has been found for the Vietnam Syndrome, editors are becoming more and more weary of challenging the powers of the President.

Liberty Lobby vs. Anti-Defamation League

The mouthpiece of the virulent anti-Communist, anti-semitic and somewhat fascist Liberty Lobby is a weekly tabloid called *The Spotlight*. The combination of Christian patriotism and investigative journalism makes this propaganda rag quite an amusing read. Imagine if you merged the Revolutionary Communist Party's paper *Revolutionary Worker* with the Lyndon LaRouche's *Executive Intelligence Review*. The yield would be a paper very similar to *The Spotlight*.

In a July issue of *The Spotlight*, there is an article describing the preliminary wranglings between lawyers for the Liberty Lobby and Mel Mermelstein who has filed a lawsuit against the Liberty Lobby and the California-based study group, the Institute for Historical Review (IHR). The IHR is a fascist-leaning group which has argued that Hitler and the Nazis did not lead a systematic campaign that resulted in the brutal murders of six million Jews from around the world - in other words, the IHR argues that the Holocaust never happened.

The Spotlight article highlights the testimony given by an Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith director named Alan Schwartz to Liberty Lobby hired attorney Mark Lane during a deposition hearing. Mermelstein had announced that Schwartz would be called during the lawsuit's trial as an expert witness. *The Spotlight* article claims that the videotape of the deposition hearing proves that Schwartz and the ADL are "determined to destroy Liberty Lobby". The article further describes the exchange between attorney Lane and Schwartz: "Schwartz was also pressed into admitting that the ADL uses spy tactics to obtain the 'facts' that it publishes in its false, malicious and defamatory attacks on Liberty Lobby...In one interesting exchange Lane evidently embarrassed

Schwartz by making him reveal - under oath - that he (Schwartz) had never read *Square One*, the magnum opus penned by his ADL superior, Arnold Forster."

Persian Gulf Fall-Out

Stephen Slade, current director of the anti-U.S. interventionist group *Out Now*, has a bag full of ruminations on the Persian Gulf "slaughter" and its aftermath. At a recent speech in Chapel Hill, Slade said that he thinks there will be second invasion of Iraq, this time with the goal of removing Saddam Hussein from power and replacing him with a puppet of the United States government. Slade claims that the question of whether or not the Iraqis have nuclear weapons and whether or not the United States should respond militarily is only a smokescreen for the behind-the-scenes planning sessions in the White House and the Pentagon for the "second turkey shoot

"Turkey did not want the Kurds in its country because it is fighting its own civil war against a Kurdish population that wants its autonomy and independence."

of Baghdad". Slade says that George Bush knows that the Iraqis are not close to having nuclear weapon capabilities.

Slade, who was the director of the Pledge of Resistance in the mid-1980s, also provided some excellent insight into the United States' response to the Kurdish refugee problem. He claims that the only reason the United States intervened was to herd the Kurds back into Iraq as soon as possible. Turkey did not want the Kurds in their country because it is fighting its own civil war against a Kurdish population that wants its autonomy and independence. What did the United States' military do? They set up temporary refugee camps in northern Iraq to entice the Kurdish refugees to leave Turkey. The United States also threatened the Iraqi regime with further retaliation if it in any way initiated action that would compel the Iraqi Kurds to once again flee to Turkey. Slade illustrated this argument by pointing to the United

States' non-response to the thousands of Iraqi Kurds who fled to Iran where they are still stranded today.

Chomsky on Industrialization

In the Summer issue of *Anarchy* magazine, Noam Chomsky was put on the hot seat by the editors of the magazine. Last April, Chomsky traveled to Columbia to give a lecture at the University of Missouri. Prior to his scheduled talk, he met briefly with *Anarchy* editor Lev Chernyi and his colleagues. One of the first questions asked by Chernyi was if Chomsky ever read *Fifth Estate* magazine and if he sympathized with its "anti-civilization" perspective. Chomsky indicated that he does read *Fifth Estate* but that he has more sympathy with "the parts of the anarchist movement that were interested in and took for granted the existence of industrial society and wanted to make it free and libertarian."

For the remainder of the interview, the interrogators tried to convince Chomsky that technological progress is evil because it will lead to the technology having a life of its own. Chomsky's comeback: "I don't believe that. I think technology itself is essentially neutral. You can use technology for very good things." Later on in the interview, Lev Chernyi claimed that "automobiles have basically redesigned all cities in industrialized countries to their needs." Chomsky responded: "I mean getting rid of the public transportation system in Los Angeles wasn't a decision by the automobile. It was a decision by the General Motor's management."

Noam Chomsky was correct. Technology can be harnessed by humans to be used for liberating purposes just as the destruction of the Earth can be slowed down if humans begin to use common sense. For example, we can begin to implement the use of successfully tested alternative forms of energy. Chomsky went a long way in discrediting the "anti-civilization" philosophy of the *Anarchy* editors who ignore the vital role played by fellow human beings in the realization of our subjugation to technology. However, I must give Lev Chernyi credit for publishing this highly discerning interview."

Sacco and Vanzetti: The Anarchist Background

By Paul Avrich

Princeton University Press, 41 William Street, Princeton, NJ 08540, 1991. 265pp.

review by Norman Lederer

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are the Damon and Pythias of the radical Left. Universally described by their sympathizers and even critics as decent and caring human beings, devoted to their friends and warmly loving toward their families and children, the Italian anarchists were railroaded to their deaths in 1927 by a government and a public utterly convinced of their guilt. Paul Avrich, the doyen of historians of anarchism, strongly implies the innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti of the specific crimes for which they were executed. In so doing, he joins the slew of investigators of the affair, always with the significant exception of Boston historian Francis Russell who adamantly asserts the guilt of the pair.

As perhaps the foremost American scholar of anarchism, Avrich places Sacco and Vanzetti firmly into their appropriate positions as militant exponents of the anarchist creed. Instead of being merely victims of the

hysterical anti-radical and anti-foreign mania of the era, Avrich describes the two men as distinct actors on the stage of American radicalism before and during World War I. Many historians have concluded that Sacco and Vanzetti suffered their fate owing to their Italian origins. On the other hand, Avrich emphatically demonstrates that it was on the basis of their political beliefs that the two men were killed.

Avrich's account leaves little doubt that Sacco and Vanzetti were committed and militant anarchists; ardent believers in the use of physical acts of violence to help bring on the demise of capitalism. In fact, by the time that the author's tale fully unfolds, one might reach the conclusion that although Sacco and Vanzetti were innocent of the crime for which they were executed, they certainly were not "babes in the woods" when it came to the planning and carrying out of acts of violence.

The ideals of Italian anarchism arrived in the United States in the late nineteenth century in the minds and hearts of Italian immigrants, just as German and Russian immigrants brought their variant of anarchism. Sacco, from southern Italy, and Vanzetti, from Piedmont in the northwestern corner, came from relatively prosperous families. They certainly did not adopt the cause of anarchism because of want and

deprivation. They became anarchists through intellectual development; formulating a philosophical stance toward government and society similar to that which attracted many thinkers in the pre-World War I period, especially among southern Europeans.

The two men immigrated to the United States for a number of reasons. Changes in family composition played a role, as well as the desire for adventure. As persons devoted to expanding the intellectual aspects of individual expression, Sacco and Vanzetti were interested above all in living in a society without the artificial restrictions and limitations of the Old World. Sacco perhaps articulated it best in a letter from his prison cell to Massachusetts Governor Fuller:

"There was no economic necessity for either of us to come to this country. We came because we heard that this was a land of freedom - freedom not merely to gain wealth, for which we cared little, but freedom of the mind and ideas."

Sacco and Vanzetti became immersed in the culture of anarchism soon after their arrival in the United States. In the pre-World War I period, anarchism in America and Europe, like contemporary socialism and Communism at a later date, was not only a political credo but a way of life. Italian anarchists clustered together in virtually every ethnic

Norman Lederer is a regular contributor to this magazine.

entity along the Eastern seaboard, generating a world within a world amid the larger society.

Each anarchist group tended to be bound together by a dominant personality; a charismatic leader whose example and will provided an ideological identity for his or her followers. Johann Most was such a figure among the militant German anarchists, as was Emma Goldman among the Russians and Jews. Sacco and Vanzetti looked to the dynamic and mercurial Luigi Galleani, whose philosophy of total freedom, expressed in forthright and powerful spoken and written rhetoric had a spell-binding impact on his Italian-American auditors. Galleani edited the most influential Italian-American anarchist publication, *Cronaca Souversiva*, which for some fifteen years, until its suppression by the American government, constituted the backbone of the militant Italian anarchist network in the United States. Avrich vividly describes how the anarchists formed a true

brotherhood of comradeship and solidarity among themselves. Sacco and Vanzetti and their comrades discussed ways and means of achieving the perfect society to replace the vicious, exploitative capitalistic jungle in which they lived. The accepted mode of hastening the coming of the new order was through violence, perpetrated by gun or bomb. Sacco and Vanzetti fully subscribed to this *modus operandi* in common with fellow anarchists.

Avrich skillfully traces the path of anarchist thought and deed through the mine field of American panic and mass hysteria during and after World War I. He outlines the formation and development of state and federal mechanisms of political control and suppression of free speech and thought, including the rise of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the activities of Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Government suppression begat radical reaction and as anarchist

bombs flooded the mails, the government on all levels stormed anarchist meeting halls, newspaper offices and private homes. Anarchists were hustled off to jails on largely trumped-up charges where they languished until the slow operation of American law eventually disposed of their cases. Alien anarchists were deported, sometimes to a certain death or imprisonment overseas.

It was in this atmosphere of suppression and intellectual thought control that Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested and charged with robbery and murder. Given the time and their political views, the two men were goners from the start. Despite the efforts of their fellow radicals throughout the world, the two died in the electric chair in 1927, some seven years following their arrest. Their position in the American Left and the radical world in which they lived and worked are splendidly portrayed in this important and highly readable work. °

Periodicals

● **Culture Concrete**, \$16 - Six issues. 2141-C Mission St. #305, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Culture Concrete is a very big and well-rounded quarterly. In issue #3, there are feature articles, poetry, reviews of books, theater, cinema, and restaurants and a very good letter section. Especially intriguing is the article on Noam Chomsky's views on Zionism. Sample copies are \$5.

● **The Stranger**, cash only, P.O. Box 31848, Seattle, WA 98103

The Stranger is an irregularly published magazine that aims to examine topics and events in anonymous fashion. According to the mystery editor, "I choose anonymity because I want to ensure that what is said is more important than who says it." In the only issue I've read, there are articles on the benefits of multicultural society, a rather

non-committal piece on "citizen responsibility" and an intriguing essay on "The Bubble Spectacle".

● **Progressive Librarian**, \$15-One year. PLG, c/o Empire State Coll.-Labor Studies Library, 330 West 42nd St.-4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

Progressive Librarian should be on your reading list if you're interested in keeping libraries "an agent of democratic education".

— reviews by Mark Hand

Miscellaneous Reviews

• **Central America Without Crying Uncle**, David Kirsh-editor, 1987, 64 pp. \$2 per copy (multiple-copy rates available). Primer Project, 107 Mosswood Ct, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

The events in Nicaragua are no longer on the public agenda of the U.S. president which means that the dependent press has followed suit and looked elsewhere for news. To help us to remember what our tax dollars are paying for in Central America, there is a special publication that fairly and graphically tells the history of U.S. penetration into the affairs of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. *Central America*

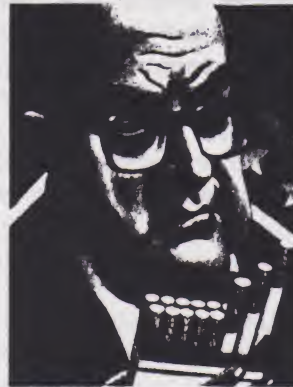
Without Crying Uncle gives the reader a quick and easy overview of the history of each of these countries plus a helpful bibliography. For those of you who prefer only to look at the pictures, there are close to a hundred photos in this 64-page publication.

• **Drug Wars Trading Cards**, \$8.95. Eclipse Enterprises, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, CA 95436.

Drug Wars: The Straight Dope on America's Dirtiest Deals, the thirty-six card set, is once again the collaboration of artist Salim Yazub and writer Paul Brancato who had worked on the *Bush League* and *Iran-Contra Scandal* trading cards. My favorite of Yazub's illustrations is the one entitled "Thurman's

Panty Raid" which refers to Operation Just Cause's General Maxwell Thurman and his discovery that General Manuel Noriega wore red underwear to ward off the "evil eye". A perfect gift for that special conspiracy theorist.

- reviews by Mark Hand



DRUG LORD JESSE HELMS

Letters cont. from page 2

But the essential fact remains that the only time there was relative peace in the area was between 1952-54 and 1959-64 when there was an enforced arms embargo on the region. Both times, the embargo was broken by the Soviet Union. It was due to the 1967 war which was initiated by the Arabs and instigated by the Soviet Union, that the Arabs lost the West Bank and Gaza.

I would like to know how the Jews of Israel would have been treated had the Arabs been victorious in any of their aggressive wars? Back in 1948-49, many Jews of Egypt, Syria, and Iraq fought on the side of the Arab nations just as there were Arabs who fought on the side of Israel. Yet Israel didn't repay its loyal Arabs with expulsion.

Mark Hand responds:

I have very strong ideological commitments and one of them is to disseminate a diversity of ideas (including ones that I think are pretty far-out) in this magazine. As for Mr. Sorgo labeling me a "comfortable yuppie", I must admit that I am not inclined to "dumster dive" for my one meal a day. And I'm not on the front lines of the revolutionary war as Mr. Sorgo seems to be. Yup, I guess that makes me a comfortable yuppie.

New Orleans, Louisiana

I think it's admirable that you gave Rabbi Feuerwerker equal time. I didn't agree with hardly anything he said but it's cool that you are open minded. I don't know if I would be.

Elvis

Too Serious For Me

Plantation, Florida

Your "zine" was very well done. The layout, offset printing and trimming show the professionalism of your magazine. Its almost too perfect. A few graphics would make your zine look less drab. The cover looks like a journal I have seen at the library.

Alot of the stuff discussed in Incite Information was too political/government oriented for me. Unfortunately, Jacob Feuerwerker's article was the hardest to read and understand.

Once again, your zine is decent in all categories you are hitting upon but misses my boat. Too serious for me to enjoy.

Dan Wright

The Wrath of Israel Firsters

One of the favorite whipping boys of the Israeli press and the Israeli lobby here in the United States is *Tikkun* magazine editor **Michael Lerner**. Instead of noting the authoritarian tactics of the Israeli police state, Israel-firsters will viciously attack those people who aren't afraid to tell it like it is. In a July issue of the *Jerusalem Post*, media critic **David Bar-Illan** delivers a harangue on the anti-semitic ways of his fellow Jew, Lerner, who has had the audacity to suggest that army conscripts should refuse to serve in the Occupied Territories. Media critic Bar-Illan snidely remarks that "whether a call on Israelis to refuse to serve in the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) is an act of sedition, particularly coming from a foreigner, must be left to the legal experts." The funny thing is that Lerner's arguments are rather docile compared to the views on Israel-Palestinian relations of other "self-hating" Jewish writers.

Buthelezi and the CIA

The South African-based Inkatha Freedom Party may have been conspiring with more than just the South African government. During his visit to Washington in late July, Inkatha Chief **Mongosuthu Buthelezi** met with "the head of the Central Intelligence Agency". The Inkatha leader has declined to name "the head" of the CIA with whom he met. According to the South African newspaper *The Weekly Mail*, "the big question puzzling British as well as some US officials is why Buthelezi should have been given time at all with the chief of the CIA. What, if any, intelligence or security issue could have been discussed?"

Miles Drentell's New Career

I certainly won't miss the whining of Hope and Michael but I will fondly remember the autocratic Miles Drentell from the cancelled ABC-TV show *thirtysomething*. Drintell, played by actor **David Clennon**, was the president of the Philadelphia advertising agency named DAA. The July/August issue of *Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting's* newsletter *Extra!* reports that the *New York Times* "Arts & Leisure" section covered the cancellation of

People Buried in the News

thirtysomething by asking the lead actors to describe how their characters will fare after they graduate from the series. *The Times* published the scenarios of all of the actors except Clennon's. Here is a flavor of what Clennon had to say:

"Miles will replace Lee Atwater in the 1992 Bush campaign. Bush will win in a landslide, and Miles will be appointed to a high office in the CIA's psychological warfare department."

So You Want To Be A Rock'n Roll Star

After losing to **Pete Sampras** in the finals of last year's U.S. Open, I predicted in this column that American tennis player **Andre Agassi** would never win a major tournament. It's a year later and Agassi is still shooting blanks. Following the French Open, Agassi showed that he's not only a figment of his corporate sponsors' imaginations but that he is also a comedian. According to the *Village Voice*, Agassi was asked how he felt about losing in the French Open finals. Agassi responded: "I don't want you to think I'm not happy about this. I'm as happy as a faggot in a submarine."

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